

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harvey P. Pruitt House
 and/or common Davis House

2. Location

street & number 414 S. Main Street ☐ not for publication
 city, town Berlin ☐ vicinity of congressional district 1st
 state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name J. Bayard Davis, Sr.
 street & number 414 S. Main Street telephone no.: 641-0224
 city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber
 street & number Market Street folio
 city, town Snow Hill state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____
 date _____ ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local
 depository for survey records _____
 city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. W-214

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date of move _____ |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sitting on a narrow plot of land, close to the street, as are many of the early 20th century Berlin houses, the Davis house, built in 1915, is located on the west side of South Main Street, near the end of the residential area. A gable-roofed, weatherboard garage and attached shed is behind the house.

This 2½-story frame house is 3 bays by 3 bays, hip-roofed with flaring eaves and a deep overhang. A single interior chimney rises from the south roof slope. "American 4-square" in form, the house is wrapped by a verandah across the front and extending around the south and north facades. Brick piers supporting the verandah and the raised foundation are brick similar to 416 and 412 South Main Street. Windows throughout the house have decorative diamond-paned, upper sash over single-paned lower sash. Entablature molding adorns the top of window frames.

The verandah is a striking feature of the front facade. The heavily overhanging roof is supported by Tuscan-styled columns, with a hip-roofed projection supported by double columns accentuating the entrance. A simple wooden ballustrade extends between the columns. The entrance in the central bay is off center with a shallow bay with 3 windows occupying the left bay and a single over-sized window the right. A hip-roofed dormer with slanting sides and a pair of single sash diamond-paned windows is centered in the front roof slope.

On the south facade, the verandah has been extended over a block foundation and enclosed. Originally, the first bay on the left was a one-story, three-sided bay with two windows and a door. On the second floor another three-window bay projection extends on the third bay from the left.

The rear or west facade has a hip-roofed basement entrance in the central bay flanked by basement windows. On the north facade, the verandah extends the length of the structure terminating in a pantry at the west end. Not a later enclosure, the pantry has a decorative diamond-paned window as in the rest of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No.

WC-214

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | humanitarian | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | | | |

Specific dates c. 1914

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although the basic house form is four-square, the shallow three-sided bays, decorative windows and generous verandah create a unique combination. The house is solidly built, with many refinements and is a good example of early 20th century taste and workmanship in Berlin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-214

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Page S. Hammond

organization Berlin Historic District Comm. date August, 1985

street & number 313 S. Main Street telephone 641-0773

city or town Berlin state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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